

**UNIT 333**

**SAN LUIS RESERVOIR STATE RECREATION AREA**

**GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT**

**February 1986**

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**AMENDMENT TO GENERAL PLAN  
SAN LUIS RESERVOIR STATE RECREATION AREA**

**State of California - The Resources Agency  
Department of Parks and Recreation**

**December 1985**

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

## STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

P. O. BOX 2390, SACRAMENTO 95811



Resolution 13-86  
adopted by the  
CALIFORNIA STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
at its regular meeting in Los Banos on  
February 7, 1986

WHEREAS, the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation has presented to this Commission for approval the Proposed Amendment to General Plan for San Luis Reservoir State Recreation Area; and

WHEREAS, this reflects the long-range development plans providing for the optimum use and enjoyment of the unit as well as the protection of its quality;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the State Park and Recreation Commission approves the Department of Parks and Recreation's Proposed Amendment to General Plan for San Luis Reservoir State Recreation Area, dated December 1985, subject to such environmental changes as the Director of Parks and Recreation shall determine advisable and necessary to implement the provisions and objectives of said plan amendment.

## PURPOSE

To change the present undesignated land use at the northern portion of the O'Neill Forebay of San Luis Reservoir State Recreation Area to the designation of day and overnight use in the areas known as the Meadows and Grant Line. This amendment will permit development of public use facilities at these locations.

## PLANNING HISTORY

Original planning for O'Neill Forebay and San Luis Reservoir was a joint venture between the state and federal governments. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation was the constructing agency, with the state Department of Water Resources the operating agency. The Department of Parks and Recreation, through a contract with DWR, was given the responsibility to plan, design, construct, maintain, and operate the recreation areas.

In association with the state-constructed water project, the department conducted a recreation feasibility study for the proposed reservoir and forebay in the early 1960s. The department prepared a report titled "San Luis Reservoir Recreation Development Plan," dated June 1964. The plan identified potential recreation facilities with emphasis on day use at the O'Neill Forebay and overnight use on the large reservoir.

In 1971, the General Development Plan for this unit was approved by the state Park and Recreation Commission. The plan was not developed to the same level of detail now required for State Park System general plans; this earlier plan included the mapping of existing conditions, resource features, identification of recreation areas, and a plan of the proposed day-use facilities at the San Luis Creek area. See Exhibit A (existing General Development Plan).

Because of increasing public demand for recreational improvements at the O'Neill Forebay, legislation for the planning and development of additional facilities at O'Neill Forebay was included in the 1984-85 budget. A citizens task force assisted in the planning effort for the development program. Since facilities are proposed in two areas (Meadows area and Grant Line area) that were not designated for development in the 1971 general plan, it is necessary that an amendment to the 1971 plan be made to permit developments described here. (See Exhibit B, General Plan Amendment.)

## JUSTIFICATION FOR THE AMENDMENT

The need for overnight camping at the O'Neill Forebay has increased since preparation of the 1971 General Development Plan. Use patterns have shown that boaters and overnight campers prefer the forebay because of the easy access to the water. The forebay has a maximum vertical fluctuation of only about eight feet, as compared with 219 feet at the main reservoir. Since

construction of Interstate 5 and the public's increased use of recreational vehicles, the forebay has become an attractive stopover location. Improvements are now being made to Highway 152 which are expected to provide better access to this SRA for residents of San Benito and Santa Clara Counties.

RV camping has been permitted at the southern part of the forebay, known as the Medeiros area. At peak use, more than 400 recreational vehicles have been counted in this area at one time. However, the Medeiros area is subject to prevailing and strong southwest winds, it is relatively level, and it has no trees or hills to provide natural wind protection. The Meadows and Grant Line areas are located in the shadow of a hill more than 600 feet high, which tends to protect the area from the strong southwest winds. With camping facilities developed in the Meadows area, where there is wind protection, more tent camping can be anticipated.

Group facilities, for both day use and overnight camping, are in very high demand. Groups desiring group activities have been turned away because currently there are no facilities designated for this use. On peak use days, group activities cannot be permitted.

#### PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

The proposal is to amend the 1971 General Development Plan to permit the following uses.

The Meadows area has approximately +45 acres developable for overnight facilities. Project items include:

- Access road and contact station.
- Campgrounds: +170 individual sites, comfort stations, and shade ramadas.
- Group camp area: 25 sites, comfort station, and campfire center.
- Utilities: sewer, power, and water (connection to existing state-owned water and sewer treatment facilities serving San Luis Creek).
- Related improvements: landscaping, park furniture, etc.

The Grant Line area will provide boat-in day-use and camping facilities on about +20 developable acres. Project items include:

- Picnic area: +90 picnic sites, shade ramadas, and comfort stations.
- Courtesy dock.
- Group facilities.

- Beach improvements: grading and dredging.
- Utilities: water and power; sewage disposal will be pumpouts.
- Related improvements: landscaping, park furniture, etc.

The numbers indicated above are approximate and are subject to adjustment as detailed designs are prepared.

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